

Proton Pump Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits gastric acid production.

Psychedelic: (especially a street drug) that induces vivid sensory phenomena and hallucinations (mescaline).

Psychotherapeutic: a drug used to treat abnormal mental or emotional processes (chlorpromazine, haloperidol).

R

Radiographic Agent: see X-Ray Contrast Medium.

Radiopaque Agent: a drug used to help diagnose certain medical diseases.

Radiopharmaceutical: a drug containing a radioactive isotope; it is used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes (iodinated albumen with ^{125}I or ^{131}I).

Rauwolfia Alkaloid: a plant principle derived from *Rauwolfia serpentina* and related species, with antihypertensive and antipsychotic actions (reserpine).

Resin, Electrolyte Removing: see Ion Exchange Resin.

Respiratory Stimulant: a drug which serves to increase the action of the respiratory system; it increases breathing.

Retinoic Acid Derivative: a derivative of vitamin A (retinol).

Reverse COMT Inhibitor: a drug that inhibits the action of catechol-*O*-methyltransferase.

Rubefacient: a topical drug that induces mild skin irritation with erythema; it is used as a toughening agent (rubbing alcohol).

S

Salt Substitute: a sodium-free alternative to sodium chloride used for flavoring foods (potassium chloride).

Scabicide: an insecticide suitable for the eradication of the itch mite *Sarcoptes scabiei* (scabies) (crotamiton).

Sclerosing Agent: an irritant drug suitable for injection into varicose veins to induce their fibrosis and obliteration (morrhuate sodium injection).

Sedative: a central nervous system depressant used to induce mild relaxation (phenobarbital).

Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulator (SERM): a compound that acts on the estrogen receptor to selectively inhibit or stimulate estrogen-like action in various tissues.

Serotonin Agonist: a compound that activates serotonin receptors, mimicking the effect of the neurotransmitter serotonin.

Serotonin Antagonist: a drug used to inhibit the action at serotonin receptors.

Smoking Deterrent: a drug that serves to minimize the desire to smoke.

Somatostatin Analog: a hormone chemically and functionally similar to somatostatin.

Specific: a drug specially adapted in its indicated use, usually because of a functional relationship between drug mechanism and disease pathophysiology.

Stimulant, Central: a drug that increases the functional state of the central nervous system, sometimes used in convulsive therapy of mental disorders (flurothyl; modafinil).

Stimulant, Respiratory: a drug that selectively stimulates respiration, either by peripheral initiation of respiratory reflexes or by selective central nervous system stimulation (carbon dioxide, reflex respiratory stimulant; ethamivan, central respiratory stimulant).

Stool Softener: a drug used to soften the stool by enhancing the incorporation of water to ease evacuation.

Sulfonylurea: an oral antidiabetic drug that contains the sulfonylurea moiety in its chemical structure (glimepiride, glipizide).

Sunscreening Agent: a skin protectant that absorbs light energy at wavelengths that cause sunburn (paraaminobenzoic acid, PABA).

Suppressant: a drug that inhibits the progress of a disease but does not cure it.

Sympatholytic: a drug that inhibits response to sympathetic nerve impulses and to sympathomimetic drugs; an antiadrenergic drug (phenolamine, *alpha* sympatholytic; propranolol, *beta* sympatholytic; clonidine, *alpha*₂ sympatholytic; doxazosin mesylate, *alpha* sympatholytic).

Sympathomimetic: a drug that activates organs innervated by the sympathetic nervous system; an adrenergic drug (epinephrine).

Systemically Acting Drug: a drug administered so as to reach systemic circulation, from which the drug diffuses into all tissues, including the site of the therapeutic action.

T

Thiazide Diuretic: a diuretic that contains the benzothiadiazide (thiazide) moiety in its chemical structure (hydrochlorothiazide).

Thrombolytic: an enzyme drug administered parenterally to solubilize blood clots (enoxaparin sodium, urokinase, warfarin sodium).

Thyroid Hormone: a hormone that maintains metabolic function and normal metabolic rate of tissues (levothyroxine).

Topically Acting Drug: a drug applied to the body surface for local therapeutic action.